

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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FBIE-00 CPR-01 A-01 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 PA-02

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USSS-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 H-02

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SUBJ: NEW YORK CITY REQUEST FOR FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT OF
EXTRA POLICE COSTS

REF: USUN 5168

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER SENT BY MAYOR BEAME TO
PRESIDENT FORD NOV 18.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

NEW YORKCITY IS PROUD TO BE THE HOME OF THE UNITED NATIONS,
AND WE HAVE ALWAYS WELCOMED FOREIGN DIPLOMATS AND CONSULS
GENERAL TO WORK AND LIVE HERE.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE CITY HAS A SPECIAL AGENCY, THE
COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED NATIONS AND FOR THE CONSULAR CORPS,
ESTABLISHED TO GIVE ASSISTANCE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY DURING THEIR RESIDENCE IN NEW YORK CITY.

FURTHERMORE, UNITED NATIONS AND FOREIGN EMBASSY PROPERTIES
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ARE EXEMPTED FROM THE OBLIGATION TO PAY CITY REAL ESTATE

TAXES, AND THE CITY OF NEW YORK ALSO PROVIDES DAILY PROTECTION, 24 HOURS A DAY, 365 DAYS A YEAR, TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

FOR YEARS, I HAVE SOUGHT FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT OF EXTRA POLICE COSTS ON GROUNDS THAT THESE COSTS ARE PURELY INTERNATIONAL IN NATURE, AND THEREFORE, ARE AN OBLIGATION OF OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

SINCE BECOMING MAYOR, I HAVE SPECIFICALLY BROUGHT THIS MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND HAVE DISCUSSED IT WITH MEMBERS OF THE WHITE HOUSE-CITY HALL LIAISON COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY THE PRESIDENT MORE THAN SIX MONTHS AGO. WHILE WE HAVE HEARD SYMPATHETIC RESPONSES, WE HAVE RECEIVED NO ACTION ON THIS MATTER -- AND CERTAINLY NO MONEY.

THE CITY OF NEW YORK IS WILLING TO SHOULDER PART OF THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF BEING HOST CITY TO THE UNITED NATIONS. HOWEVER, WE DO BELIEVE THAT, IN ALL EQUITY, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD ASSUME ITS PROPER SHARE OF THE COST. IT IS NOT FAIR TO ASK THE TAXPAYERS OF ONE CITY ALONE TO PAY FOR WHAT AFFECTS ALL THE PEOPLE OF OUR COUNTRY.

THE CITY NOW PROVIDES \$2.4 MILLION A YEAR IN DAILY POLICE PROTECTION FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE CONSULAR CORPS. THIS IS NORMAL, ROUTINE PROTECTION AND DOES NOT INCLUDE EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES INCURRED BECAUSE OF UNUSUAL EVENTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS.

FOR INSTANCE, THE PERSONNEL COST ALONE TO NEW YORK CITY TAXPAYERS OF PROTECTING YASIR ARAFAT AND MEMBERS OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION DURING THEIR VISIT LAST WEEK TO THE UNITED NATIONS TOTALED \$696,592. THIS WAS EXCLUSIVE OF HELICOPTER USE, FUEL COSTS, POLICE LAUNCH EXPENSES AND OTHER TRANSPORTATION COSTS.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE WAS THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH COST US ABOUT \$3 MILLION AND THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS, ATTENDED BY SOME 70 HEADS OF STATE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, WHICH COST US ABOUT \$2.6 MILLION.

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THE FATE OF WORLD PEACE OFTEN DEPENDS UPON OUR ABILITY TO PROVIDE SECURE AND EFFICIENT POLICE PROTECTION TO WORLD FIGURES INVOLVED IN SERIOUS CONTROVERSIES. THE NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT DESERVES THE COMMENDATION OF THE ENTIRE WORLD IN CARRYING OUT ITS SECURITY MISSION SO SKILLFULLY AND EFFECTIVELY DURING THE ARAFAT VISIT LAST WEEK.

MOST OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS CITY WERE ANGERED BY THE UNITED NATIONS DECISION TO BRING THE PLO TO ITS SHORES. NEVERTHELESS, WE RECOGNIZED OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO OURSELVES AND TO THE WORLD TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND CALM.

NOT A DROP OF BLOOD WAS SHED IN THIS CITY BECAUSE OF THE ARAFAT VISIT. THAT'S A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT WHICH OUGHT TO SERVE AS A MODEL FOR OUR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO FOLLOW.

NEW YORK CITY'S PRESENT BUDGET PROBLEMS MAKE IT MORE URGENT THAN EVER BEFORE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REIMBURSE THE CITY FOR ITS COSTS IN PROTECTING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HERE.

WE URGE YOU, THEREFORE, TO APPROVE A FEDERAL APPROPRIATION OF \$3.1 MILLION TO REIMBURSE US FOR OUR CURRENT UNITED NATIONS EXPENSES -- \$2.4 MILLION IN ROUTINE POLICE PROTECTION AND \$700,000 FOR THE ARAFAT VISIT. WE URGE YOU ALSO TO ESTABLISH THIS KIND OF APPROPRIATION ON AN ANNUAL BASIS TO REIMBURSE US FOR OUR ACTUAL POLICE COSTS EACH YEAR.

I CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT BECAUSE OF FEDERAL TREATIES, WE ARE REQUIRED TO EXEMPT THE UNITED NATIONS AND FOREIGN EMBASSY PROPERTY FROM CITY REAL ESTATE TAXES, TOTALING CLOSE TO \$7 MILLION THIS YEAR.

OVER THE YEARS, A CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE OF OUR CUMULATIVE REAL ESTATE TAX LOSSES, IS \$75 MILLION, AND A CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE OF THE CITY'S CUMULATIVE DIRECT, POLICE EXPENSES IN PROTECTING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS \$35 MILLION.

WE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS OUR REAL ESTATE LOSSES AND POLICE COSTS OF OTHER YEARS WITH FEDERAL OFFICIALS ON ANOTHER OCCASION. WE ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, AT THIS TIME, WITH BEING REIMBURSED

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FOR A SPECIFIC, OUT-OF-POCKET COST OF \$3.1 MILLION FOR THE POLICE PROTECTION WE ARE PROVIDING THIS YEAR.

WE WANT THE UNITED NATIONS HERE. IT BELONGS HERE IN THE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD. AS YOU KNOW, NEW YORK CITY SPENT MANY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN PREPARING THE UNITED NATIONS SITE, AND WE COMMITTED OURSELVES TO SPENDING ADDITIONAL MILLIONS TOWARD ITS EXPANSION. WE ARE ALSO PROVIDING OTHER MUNICIPAL SERVICES ON A DAILY BASIS TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, OTHER THAN POLICE PROTECTION. AND, WE HAVE DONE SO WILLINGLY.

BUT, THE TIME HAS COME, IN ALL FAIRNESS, FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO HELP US CARRY OUT THIS INTERNATIONAL TASK. SINCERELY,
ABRAHAM D. BEAME

MAYOR
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